Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai.

13 Q.—(*a*) Are the Government aware of the representations made by Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai, Sri Mulam Popular Assembly Member for Agastisvaram, at several sessions of the Assembly, on the question of the standard measure for Nanjinad, otherwise known as the question of the Marakkal-Para equivalence, and the printed explanatory memorandum submitted by him?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state what action they have already taken on the subject and whether they have completely dealt with the same? If they have not, will they consider the desirability of appointing a Committee of officials and non-officials to collect all information on this agrarian question and to submit a detailed report?

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

13 A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The orders of Government on the representations referred to in part (*a*) of the question will be found in G. O. No. L. R. 5631/1705 of 1908, dated the 1st July 1920 (*vide* pages 682 and 683 of Part I of the Travancore Government Gazette dated the 6th July 1920).

Mr. N. Kumaran Asan.

14 Q.—(1) With reference to the answer furnished by the Government to interpellation No. 1 (*b*) at the meeting of the Council held on the 11th November 1920, will they now be pleased to issue necessary orders doing away with the practice of putting up the bamboo-mat boards near temples in the Southern Division, which causes considerable inconvenience to the people, who, by such notices are debarred from holding personal communications or transacting business with their fellow-citizens living within the streets concerned during Utsavams, however long the period may be, and since the custom, however old, is not in keeping with the enlightenment or spirit of the time, and affects the whole bulk of the non-caste people, who form more than 75 per cent. of the population in the Division?

(2) Will the Government be also pleased to order at an early date the removal of the two boards said to be standing near the Manakad Sastha temple, Trivandrum, which are supposed to prohibit the use, by non-caste Hindus, of the footpaths on which the boards stand?

(3) (*a*) As regards the numerous boards in the Northern Division, the inscriptions of which are said to be obliterated, have the Government taken any steps to remove them in view of the repeated representations made on the subject in the Council and outside, and, if not, do they propose to take any steps and, if so, when?

(*b*) Are the Government aware of the fact that the recent disturbances in the Northern taluks between Caste-Hindus and Ezhavas are traceable to the custom of caste pollution still obtaining there, that the notice boards in question encourage it to a great extent by giving official recognition to it and prevent it from dying a natural death under the pressure of the time, and that the immediate removal of them is, therefore, a pressing necessity?

(*c*) Will the Government be also pleased to state with reference to the boards put up by Mr. Sankaralingam Pillai, as Tahsildar, the circumstances that led to the putting up of them at so recent a date as 1081, and whether his action in the matter has legal support, and if so, how?

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

14 A.—(1), (2), and (3) (*a*) and (*c*)

The matters referred to in these parts of the question are still under the enquiry of Government.

(3) (*b*) Government are not prepared to express opinions.

Mr. N. Kumaran Asan.

15 Q.—With reference to the answer furnished by the Government to interpellation No. 6 put at the last meeting of the Council, (1) will the Government be pleased to take into consideration the circumstance that it would naturally take time to provide all Sirkar Satroms with separate kitchens and that it would be improper to keep non-caste people waiting indefinitely until this is done; and (2) will they, in the meantime, be pleased to issue further orders allowing at least the use of the resting rooms in such Satroms by the said people, barring the kitchens, if need be?

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

15 A.—Orders will be issued allowing the use of resting rooms by non-caste people in Satroms referred to in Paragraph 2 of G. O. No. P. W. 1790 A, dated the 19th March 1913.

Mr. N. Kumaran Asan.

16 Q.—With reference to the answer furnished by the Government to interpellation No. 10, put at the last meeting of the Council, will the Government be pleased to state whether the investigations in respect of the fires in other temples than Haripad have closed now, and if so, will they be pleased to publish the results thereof in detail with reference to each occurrence with a view to giving satisfaction to the public and thus remove unwarranted and fanciful suspicions in the matter?

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

16 A.—The investigations in respect of these occurrences have not yet been completed.

Mr. C. Raman Tampi.

17 Q.—(1) Will Government be pleased to call for a statement showing—

(*a*) the number of cases filed in each of the courts of Magistrates (exercising First Class powers), under Section 128 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, during the last 5 years;

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(*b*) the dates of their file and the dates of their disposal ;

(*c*) the number of such cases in which attachment of properties was ordered ;

(*d*) the dates of ordering such attachment ;

(*e*) the dates on which such attachment was ordered to be released and the dates on which such attachment was actually withdrawn ;

(*f*) the number of cases, in each court, in which the properties in dispute are not delivered over to the parties who have been declared to be entitled to the possession thereof ;

(*g*) the reason for such delay in each case ;

(*h*) the number of cases in which even now the income from the disputed properties is being taken by the receivers, and has not been handed over to the parties entitled thereto ;

(*i*) the number of applications now pending in each court by parties for the return of the attached properties and for the disbursement of income taken by receivers, the dates of such applications, and the reason for the delay, if such applications are still pending ;

(*j*) the amount of annual income derived from properties attached in each case and the annual expenditure incurred for the administration of the properties by receivers appointed by the courts ?

N. B.—The above items of information may be given in a tabular form showing particulars in respect of each court.

(2) Have Government or the High Court issued any orders with regard to the appointment of receivers of properties attached, pending investigation of disputes ? If not, will Government be pleased to cause rules to be framed to ensure the proper administration of such properties ?

(3) Are such receivers required to furnish security? If not, will Government be pleased to issue instructions in this behalf ?

(4) Are Government aware that unreasonable delay in releasing properties, and careless, negligent or imprudent administration of these properties by their subordinate officers will expose the Government to the chances of paying damages to aggrieved parties ?

(5) Will Government be pleased to appoint official receivers for each District at an early date so that the properties attached by criminal courts pending disputes may also be entrusted to them for management ?

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

17 A.—(1) The compilation of the information called for by the Member would involve considerable time and labour. Nevertheless, Government will call for the information.

(2) to (5) The question of the appointment of official receivers is engaging the attention of Government; the matter is under correspondence with the High Court.

Mr. C. Raman Tampi.

18 Q.—Will Government be pleased to call for a statement from all courts in Travancore exercising appellate powers in criminal cases on the following points :—

(*a*) the number of cases in which the decisions of subordinate courts (for the last 5 years) were reversed by appellate courts and fines ordered to be refunded ;

(*b*) the dates of such appellate decisions and the dates on which such orders of refund were communicated to the subordinate courts ;

(*c*) the number of cases in each court where such refund orders have not yet been issued, and the dates of decisions of such cases ?

(*d*) Is there any rule compelling the courts to send periodical statements regarding the issue of such refund orders either to superior courts or to Government ? If not, will Government kindly issue orders in this behalf ?

(*e*) If delay has been caused in issuing orders of refund in respect of cases referred to in paragraph (*c*) above, will Government be pleased to call for explanation from the officers concerned in respect of such delay ?

(*f*) In view of grave irregularities and delays in the conduct of criminal cases, will Government be pleased to make the arrangements set forth below :—

(i) to divest all magistrates of all their revenue and other executive functions at an early date;

(ii) to appoint at least 50 per cent. of the Magistrates generally and all those Magistrates who exercise appellate jurisdiction particularly, by direct recruitment from the Bar; and

(iii) to place all magistrates under the direct control of the High Court.

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

18 Q.—(*a*) to (*c*) The compilation of the information called for by the Member would involve considerable time and labour. Nevertheless, Government will call for the information.

(*d*) & (*e*) Government will enquire.

(*f*) (i) The Member is referred to the answer to question No. 10.

(*f*) (ii) & (iii) No.

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